

DAILY REVIEW OF THE ARABIC PRESS



For Distribution to U.S. Embassy Personnel only.

EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT.

EVENING PAPERS September 22nd, 1948
MORNING PAPERS September 23rd, 1948

WEDNESDAY EVENING September 22, 1948

Arabic Press reaction to Mr. Marshall's
comment on Count Bernadotte's report
(See also on Page 3 the strong statement
attributed to Khashaba Pasha)

Under the headline: "The punishment of the alleged State of Israel", Al Zaman, the pro-Palace evening daily, writes: "Mr. Marshall, the spokesman of the alleged government of Israel who is at the same time the Secretary of State in President Truman's government, said that the conclusions contained in Count Bernadotte's final report could be used as basis for a just settlement of the Palestinian problem. The British Foreign Office, as usual, danced on the stairs and made a statement in clowning terms to the effect that Bernadotte's report could be used as basis for discussions.

"It is absurd to say that Mr. Marshall's statement came as a surprise to the Arab countries or that they expected the Americans to become sensible and support the Arab contention that Palestine should remain the Arab country which God wants it to be. It is equally absurd to say that Arab statements may melt the hearts of the small nations which are influenced by the possessors of the dollar.

"The United Nations will approve Bernadotte's proposals. This is the situation which we must face and which makes it necessary for us to ask: What are we going to do about it? Are we going to obey the will of the United Nations because the Western nations decreed that we should? The Arab leaders made several statements rejecting these proposals. But how we wish they told us also what attitude the Arabs would adopt if the United Nations attempt to carry out Bernadotte's recommendations! Speak up ye Arab leaders! We are sick and tired of the tyranny of the West. The application of economic and other sanctions is a thousand times better than the establishment of Israel which will forever be a thorn in the flesh of the whole Arab East."

- 2 -

THURSDAY September 23rd, 1948.

Ambassador Griffis' meeting with
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs
Abaza Pasha.

Under the headline: "A frank talk between the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and the American Ambassador", Al Assas, official organ of the government, writes: "At 11 A.M. yesterday, Ibrahim Dissuki Abaza Pasha, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs received at his offices His Excellency Mr Griffis, America's Ambassador in Egypt. The meeting lasted a whole hour.

"Our reporter asked H.E. the Ambassador about the subjects discussed between him and the Pasha. He replied that they talked about general subjects which were of interest to both countries. 'You therefore talked about Palestine', remarked our reporter. 'I always talk about the Palestinian question', said the Ambassador. 'From what angle did you approach the Palestinian subject to-day?' asked our reporter. 'Did you discuss Mr Marshall's viewpoint expressed by him in his statement yesterday?'. The Ambassador replied: "No comment on Marshall's statement. But our conversation was pleasant and fruitful. Ask His Excellency the Minister".

Al Assas then goes on to say: "Our reporter asked H.E. Abaza Pasha about the meeting. He refused to say anything more than this: The Ambassador is a frank man who likes frankness. I hope his presence in Egypt will help improve the relations between the two countries.

"Our reporter also asked the Pasha if he talked with the Ambassador about Marshall's statement. "Yes we did", replied Abaza Pasha. "His views are O.K. and as I told you he is a frank man and likes the truth. If you know the details of the conversation, you would indeed be surprised.... but!".

Al Assas also reports that Mr Patterson, the Embassy's Counsellor, accompanied by "one of the Embassy's economic experts", called on Sani Abul Foutouh Bey, Director of the economic section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, yesterday at noon, to discuss with him economic matters of interest to Egypt and the U.S.A.

Al Ikhwan Al Muslimoun publishes the story concerning Mr Ambassador in practically the same expressions used by Al Assas, but Al Ikhwan prints the story under the headline: "Contacts.... but they are too late". It then proceeds to relate the story and adds that Abaza Pasha also saw the Greek Minister and the Belgian Chargé d'Affaires. It concludes the article with the words: "Readers of foreign news published in another part of this issue will note that the support of America, Britain, and France to the policy of partition makes it obvious that these contacts, to say the least, took place too late".

- 3 -

THURSDAY September 23rd, 1948.

Al Ahram publishes the story prominently but devotes only fourteen lines to it. It merely relates Abaza Pasha's statement that the Ambassador was very frank.

Al Misri also gives prominence to the story and adds that Abaza Pasha is lunching with the Ambassador tomorrow at the Embassy. It then goes on to say: "We learned that the American Ambassador discussed with the Minister of Foreign Affairs his government's attitude towards Count Bernadotte's assassination, and its efforts on behalf of the Arab refugees. The Ambassador also told the Minister that his government wanted to discuss with the responsible officials of the Egyptian Ministry of Finance two main subjects, namely: Firstly Egypt's quota of American dollars and increasing Egypt's purchase of American products, and secondly the need of American factories for the long staple Egyptian cotton".

Reaction to Mr. Marshall's statement
and Count Bernadotte's report.
Egyptian Foreign Minister Khashaba Pasha
says: "America supports only injustice."

The Paris correspondent of Al Misri says that Egyptian Foreign Minister Khashaba Pasha commented on Mr. Marshall's statement on Count Bernadotte's report by saying: "The Arab world must realize that it cannot find justice in those international meetings or from America which supports injustice only. The Palestinian problem will not be solved by foreign countries. It concerns the Arabs alone. We must not care what America does or intends to do. We should, instead, care about the things we did or did not do to save Palestine. We should solve this problem ourselves with all our strength."

Khashaba Pasha also commented on Mr. Trygve Lie's statement by saying: "Count Bernadotte supported the Jews but they killed him. Every person who supports the Jews will meet with the same end. Time will prove us right."

Al Misri's comment on Mr. Marshall's
statement

Al Misri prints an editorial under the headline: "A sad situation" in which it says: "It is indeed sad that Mr. Marshall hastened to support Count Bernadotte's proposals and that Mr. Bevin followed his example. Britain broke her silence not to support her former allies, the Arabs, and recognize their national right to be free in their own land, but to support proposals which are based on robbing the Arabs of their country and their independence. Britain's attitude is not strange, however, for she is the author of the idea of partition and is the country responsible for the Zionist gangs entering Palestine."

"At any rate, Mr. Marshall's and Mr. Bevin's support for

- 4 -

THURSDAY September 23rd, 1948.

Bernadotte's recommendations does not change the attitude of the Arabs but on the contrary will serve to stiffen their resistance.

"The Arabs should now draw up their policy on the basis of opposing these proposals by force, for force alone is respected in international circles. Khashaba Pasha's comment on Mr. Marshall's statement was an excellent one. The Arab peoples are anxious to see the statements made by their leaders put into effect."

Al Ikhwan's attack on Britain and America.

Under the headline: "Britain, the mother of Zionism", Al Ikhwan Al Muslimun writes: "Had it not been for Britain and the Balfour Declaration, Zionism would never have existed. And had it not been for the British Mandate and British treachery, the Jews of Palestine would never have numbered more than 70,000. Britain therefore deserves the title of "Mother of Zionism", although her children, the Zionists, often kick her in the pants.

"America has also tried to please her Jewish masters in order to qualify for the title of "Father of Zionism" beside the title of "Uncle Sam", but Moscow is a keen contestant for the title. Mr. Bevin, however, outshone all the competitors when he rose in the House of Commons to say that Bernadotte's report could serve as basis for a solution. The report, of course, could have been inspired by Great Britain. Hence Bevin's enthusiasm which unmasked Britain and showed her for what she really is: The Father and Mother of Zionism."

Press comments on Bernadotte's report

Al Misri and Al Ahram also print editorials concerning Bernadotte's report to the United Nations. Al Misri writes: "It was natural for the Arabs and their representatives at the United Nations to reject Count Bernadotte's proposals. It is indeed strange that the report submitted by the Mediator who was appointed by the United Nations which was founded on the basis of protecting small nations and preventing their armed invasion by bigger ones, should be based on recognition of the principle of applying force in solving international problems.

"The Mediator did nothing more than recognize the situation arising from the fight. He recommended giving Negev to the Arabs because it is already in the hands of the Egyptian forces. The Western Galilee goes to the Jews because it is already occupied by the Jews. He recommended that Haifa should be a free port because he could not very well give it to the Jews and then ask the Arabs or Iraq to let oil reach that port. His recommendations were, therefore, a recognition of a fait accompli which did not need the Mediator's efforts.

Al Ahram's editorial is headlined: "The problem has

- 5 -

THURSDAY September 23rd, 1948

started." The daily says that Bernadotte's report will in all probability be approved by the United Nations. But United Nations' approval does not end the Palestinian problem. In fact it will mark the beginning of the problem. Once the Arab countries become convinced that they may expect no justice from the big nations, there is no telling what they may do.

"The Arabs will sacrifice many things for the sake of peace in the Middle East, but they will not sacrifice their very future and existence."

The establishment of a provisional
Arab government in Palestine

The Arabic press gives some prominence to the Reuters dispatch concerning the establishment of a provisional Arab government in Palestine. There are no editorial comments or interesting news to translate for this Review today concerning this subject.

The explosion in the Jewish Quarter

The explosion which took place in the Jewish Quarter yesterday September 22nd is treated by the Arabic press as top story of the day. Photographs showing dead Jews lying in the street beside destroyed buildings are also published. The Arabic press maintains that the Jews themselves were responsible for the outrage.
